



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
PORTAGE COUNTY

# December 2021 Report

*We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*

## 4-H – Positive Youth Development

*Connie Creighton, 4-H Youth Development Agent*

- Portage County 4-H Tech Changemakers (TCM) developed and gave an informational presentation to the Hmong UpLift Digital Literacy Class at CAP Services. Two 4-H teens provided an in-depth look on different types of Social Media. The 4-H teens presented on privacy challenges, how to change privacy settings, and on both the positive and challenging attributes of each media format that families should be aware of to make informed decisions. CAP services provided translation for the group.



- Three Robotic project workshops were offered by Creighton at the Portage County library in December. Five individuals and two families are participated in the three-part project classes. The classes start with building the robot, then move on to programming the robot to move, and the final class used sensors to direct the action of the robots.
- Planned a virtual Club Officer Training Zoom with Waupaca County 4-H program on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Youth leaders from Portage County helped lead officer specific sessions. Thirty-four new club officers attended. Youth learned about parliamentary procedure, providing a welcoming environment, the three parts of a meeting, and their specific officer responsibilities.



## Agriculture

*Ken Schroeder, Agriculture Agent*

- Preparation & distribution of Farmers of Mill Creek and Farmers for Tomorrow Newsletters for farmers, agribusiness professionals, and area residents where they gain knowledge about soil and water conservation opportunities to help reduce the environmental impact of agriculture.
- Held a Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Project Update and Field Tours December 8<sup>th</sup> where attendees learned about Auburndale High School student's cover crop inter-seeding project, a local farmers experience with aerial seeding cover crops, and watershed updates.



### ***Additional Agriculture work being conducted in Portage County***

- Five regional Pesticide Applicator Trainings specific to cranberry growers have been developed, to include topics of pollinators, calculating growing degree days for lepidoptera pests, and pre-harvest intervals for export crops, so that cranberry growers can maintain their Pesticide Applicator Certifications with domain-specific information. - *Allison Jonjak, Wood County Extension Cranberry Outreach Specialist*
- Planning for a newsletter for farmers and agribusiness professionals where they learn about topics including nutrient management, farming in a low margin year, Farm Ready Research webinar offerings, Pesticide Applicator Training, beef and dairy crossbreeding, forage production, the Heart of the Farm Coffee Chat program, cover crops, animal welfare and agronomy updates. The purpose of this effort is to work collaboratively to provide timely education for improving agricultural production with multiple county farmers and stakeholders. - *Matt Lippert, Wood County Extension Agriculture Agent*
- “Forcing Bulbs” a virtual interactive program for the general public, where participants learned the requirements for planting bulbs for forcing to increase participants' sense of well-being. Participants were presented with information to increase their success in forcing spring ephemeral bulbs indoors. Attendees were introduced to the concept of forcing and the differences between bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes. - *Janell Wehr, Wood County Extension Horticulture Educator*



## Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development

*Nathan Sandwick, Community Development Educator*

- Presented updated information about broadband service availability and funding to local leaders of the Wisconsin Towns Association.
- Continuing to support the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative: Convened an outreach workgroup meeting and full group meeting of the Collaborative to help keep the research project on track.
- Synthesized community survey input, and participatory workshop feedback to continue to support a village in its strategic planning effort.

## FoodWise

*Kelly Hammond, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator; Hannah Wendels & Penny Schmitt FoodWise Nutrition Educators*

- Planning for a Strongbodies strength training for seniors in collaboration with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Portage County. The goal of this effort is to provide nutrition and strength training to improve physical health and social connection in the community.
- Continued support of a local stockbox program for seniors that provides 30-pound boxes of commodity foods and local vegetables are distributed to eligible community members in partnership with Hunger Relief Federation. This program aims to increase local food distribution and improve food security. In partnership with ADRC.
- Started offering Grocery Store Tours at Wal-Mart in Plover again; have received a lot of interested and provided two tours.
- Started Virtual Wellness Series with Health and Well Being and Horticulture colleagues, virtual lessons to be offered weekly throughout December.
- Completed series of six in-person nutrition education lessons for 6th grade students at McKinley Elementary.



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## Human Development and Relationships

*Sherry Daniels, Human Development and Relationships Educator*

- Received training and accreditation to teach Triple P Parenting for Families in Transition (divorce).
- Led a Triple P Parenting Board meeting to discuss the parenting needs in the community. It was decided our next series of training should be targeted to parents of teenagers due to the high mental health concerns with this age group.
- Teach classes to Drug Court participants where they learn about various financial wellness concepts to help them improve their own financial security.

### ***Additional Human Development and Relationships work being conducted in Portage County***

- A virtual weekly educational series (Extension Wellness) for Central WI residents where participants learn a variety of topics to improve overall well-being and health. The purpose of this series is to increase the overall well-being and health of residents through programs on financial, nutrition, horticulture, and behavioral health education. - *Jackie Carattini, Wood County Extension Human Development & Relationships Educator*

## Upcoming Programs

- RentReady of Wisconsin Training - Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-6:00pm, Idea Center.
- Financial Wellness training for Drug Court participants - December 30<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Triple P Parenting Training for Teens series will be held on the last three Mondays of January from 7:00-8:30pm.